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## **Statement by Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema on Ford's restructuring announcement**

**Lansing** - Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, issued the following statement after learning that Ford Motor Co. had announced a plan that includes drastic job cuts, accelerated plant closings and a new production strategy:

"As the news spreads today about Ford's bold initiatives and the effect they could have on Michigan's economy, we must not focus on the past but rather target our sights on the future. Ford and its industry are facing a new economy and a new global marketplace. The automotive industry is reinventing itself to survive, and so must Michigan. The days of big manufacturers, big labor, and big government thriving in a big economy are ending. Now is the time for leaders to step forward and make bold decisions. We already have a talented workforce and a tremendous wealth of entrepreneurial spirit in this state. What we need now is a government that is flexible and responsive and leaders who are decisive and resolute. What we need is a new Michigan that not only acknowledges the new economy, but embraces and thrives on the changes it has brought us. We must all find a new way of doing business because refusing to change can only lead to failure."

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